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Graduation Issue 1997

Musket

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Before the school day, Lexington High School appears to be deserted.

-photo by Carl Tortola

Summary Judgment Decision Reversed in *Yeo v. Lexington*

by Christine Chiou

In a 2-1 vote, the US First Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the granting of summary judgment and ruled against the defendants in *Douglas E. Yeo v. Town of Lexington, et al.* The ruling was later withdrawn for corrections.

The majority decision stated that "the district court erroneously concluded that no state action was involved in the rejection of the plaintiff's advertisements, and finding that the advertisement sections of the public high school newspaper and yearbook in question constituted limited public fora during the relevant academic year, we reverse the grant of summary judgment and remand the case for further proceedings..."

Three possible outcomes exist. First, the case can be sent back to US District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns, who will decide whether or not the written advertisement policies are constitutionally valid. Second, the Town of Lexington, et al., may file a petition for reconsideration of the reversal of the summary judgment decision. Third, the defendants may file for a writ of certiorari with the US Supreme Court.

"[W]e reverse the grant of summary judgment and remand the case for further proceedings."

-majority opinion in Yeo v. Lexington

The lawsuit originated in 1992, when condoms were made available to students at Lexington High School. In April 1994, Yeo, founder of Lexington Parents' Information Network (LEXNET), sued the Town of Lexington and other members of the school community when the *Musket* and the Yearbook rejected an ad he submitted for LEXNET.

The LEXNET ad stated, "We know you can do it! Abstinence: The Healthy Choice." The ad also stated that interested readers should contact LEXNET for more information. Per unwritten policy, the two publications refused to print political or advocacy ads.

Yeo charged that Superintendent Jeffrey Young, former LHS principal David Wilson, *Musket* Advisor Sam Kafrissen, and LHS Yearbook Advisor Karen Mechem coerced the students into rejecting the LEXNET ad. Yeo's federal action claimed that the refusals to print the ad violated his rights to free speech and equal protection.

Stearns had approved the defendants' motion of summary judgment in May 1996. Summary judgment argues that there is no legal basis to bring a civil case before a jury.

Stearns ruled that the publications' refusal to print the ad did not constitute state action because it appeared that it was the decision of the student editorial boards.

The appellate court judges ruled on two issues: whether or not there was state action, and whether or not the *Musket* and the Yearbook were public forums.

The majority opinion concluded that the involvement of the school committee and the advisors constituted state action, and the publications did open ads to the public. The dissenting opinion stated that "this court has dictated to student editorial boards what their high school student newspaper and yearbook must print...the First Amendment interests on the other side become apparent."

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Powerhouse Lexington team rallies way to the top. *Page 12.*

LHS Sophomores Take MCAS Test

by Evan Harris

For the first time, all sophomores at Lexington High School participated in a new state-wide testing program. The tests were given on three days—May 1, May 6, and May 7.

Administered by the State Board of Education, the tests, known as Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS), will eventually become the benchmark for testing individual students' progress towards a state-mandated standard. They will also assess each local high school's success in bringing the entire school population to that standard.

"The intention of the MCAS test is to eventually adopt a benchmark that would become a standard in order for students to qualify for graduation."

-Assistant Principal Paul Brown

According to Assistant Principal Paul Brown, this year's tests were a trial run. "The first day's test was comprised entirely of trial questions and question formats which the state may choose to incorporate into future years' tests. Results of this test will not be reported to the students or to the school," said Brown. The second test was the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, which, Brown explained, "was used this year since the state has not yet developed its own test. Next year's test may very well be a new MCAS test."

Test scores should be reported to the school and to each student by the end of the school year, suggested a humorously optimistic Brown. This year's results will allow each student to assess his/her own progress, but will have no bearing on the students' grades or school record. "The intention of the MCAS test," commented Brown, "is to eventually adopt a benchmark that would become a standard in order for students to qualify for graduation."

While this year's test was a trial, it may be that the MCAS test will become a factor and requirement for graduation. It is further expected that the overall school results may highlight strengths and weaknesses in the school's curriculum and point the way towards program changes that would enable students to score higher.

While such testing may be considered by some to measure students' learning against a state-mandated standard, some might question whether, like the SATs, it may inappropriately point some schools in the direction of teaching rote facts and de-emphasizing real cognitive learning of important ideas and principles.

Sophomore Andrea Taylor gets giddy when she realizes that she, too, may have the "right stuff" as chronicled in that New Kids On the Block song.

-caption by Carl Tortola

Crash Shows Risks of Drunk Driving

by Emily Wanderer

On May 15, during E and F blocks, an assembly for juniors and seniors was held on Worthen Road. The assembly presented a simulated car crash scene to demonstrate the dangers of drunk driving.

Students came out to Worthen Road, unsure of what they were going to see. Two cars were shrouded by white sheets, which were removed to reveal two cars which appeared to have been involved in a crash. Near the cars were a cooler and beer cans. Officials blocked off Worthen Road for over an hour for the simulation.

Inside the cars were five Lexington High School student "victims." The crash was designed to show students what could happen in a drunk driving accident. As students watched, police, fire fighters, and EMTs arrived, responding to the simulation as if it were a real accident.

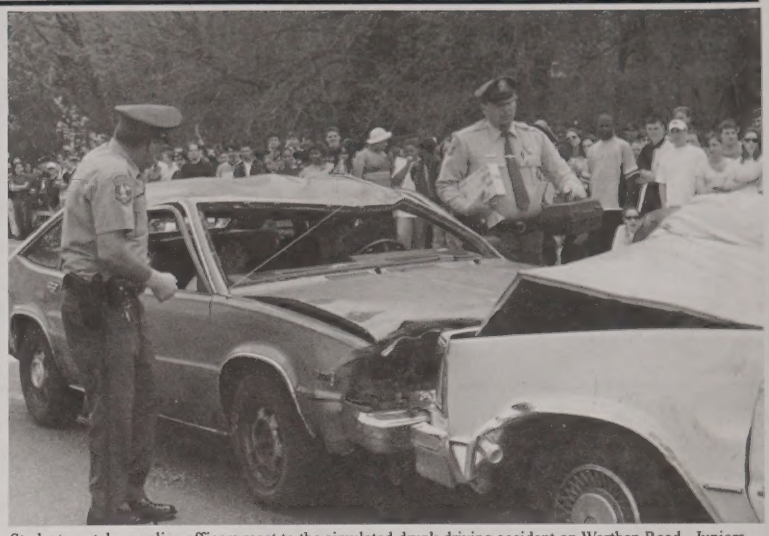
Lieutenant Kenneth Tremblay, one of the police officers on the scene, explained events to the onlookers as they occurred.

The police attempted to make the simulation as real as possible, doing everything as they would have done in dealing with a real accident. The pried open one of the cars with the Jaws of Life to reach the "injured" students, juniors Maria Stavropoulos and Reza Breakstone. Police handcuffed senior Jonathan Mandle, the "drunk driver," after he failed the field sobriety test by not being able to walk in a straight line.

Junior Theresa Green played a student who had died in the crash. She was placed in a body bag and removed from the scene in a hearse.

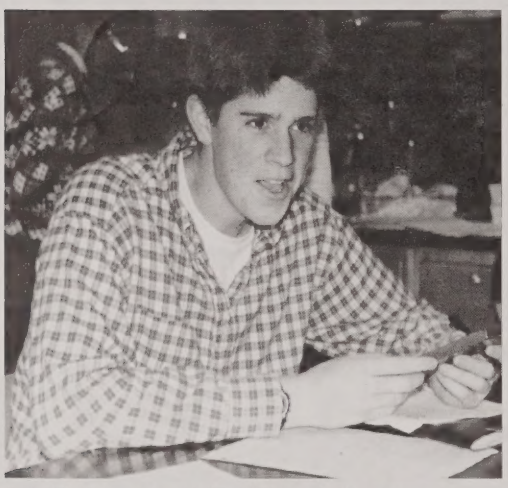
Police had also planned for a Medivac helicopter to arrive on the scene, but the helicopter was called out on a mission and was unable to come.

Following the 40-minute simulation, the LHS community discussed the dangers of drunk driving. Principal Philip Lanoue spoke about giving an eulogy for a student who had died in a drunk driving student. Tremblay commented that if the car crash simulation "made just one student think twice" about drinking and driving, then the simulation was all worthwhile.



Students watch as police officers react to the simulated drunk driving accident on Worthen Road. Juniors Reza Breakstone and Maria Stavropoulos were two of the "victims."

-photo by Andrew Dubeau



Junior Tim Shugert seems to like his "educational environment."

-photo by Dan Myung

Survey Conducted to Rate "Educational Environment"

by Kurt Kastorf

Approximately 700-800 students recently took a survey to rate their educational environment. The questionnaires, distributed during early morning math classes, are part of a larger self-assessment process that Lexington High School is undergoing to renew its accreditation with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The surveys will be sent to the University of Maine to be tabulated for the NEASC.

Every ten years, the association sends a panel of inspectors to evaluate Lexington High School and determine if it meets certain educational standards. The next inspection will take place in 1998. The panel evaluates the school to ensure it provides safe facilities, adequate materials, modern textbooks and equipment, and a quality teaching staff. The NEASC must also determine whether the school promotes a climate conducive to learning. The surveys are designed to test student opinion on the issue.

Teachers and parents took similar surveys. While most of the faculty returned their questionnaires, only about 150 of the 800 randomly selected parents have responded. Wendy Wilson, chair of the Climate Committee responsible for the surveys, commented that "the lack of parental response was disappointing....but we have a great sample from the students and from the faculty."

"The lack of parental response was disappointing....but we have a great sample from the students and from the faculty.

-Chair of Climate Committee Wendy Wilson

Once the school has been inspected, the NEASC will publish a set of recommendations for improvements to the school. Past suggestions have resulted in the expansion of the student library and measures to prevent overcrowding in cafeterias. The panel's recommendations have often been implemented.

The accreditation is displayed on transcripts to indicate to colleges that LHS adheres to strict standards of quality in education.

While the Lexington school system takes the review process very seriously, the chance of LHS' accreditation being revoked is extremely small. Still, such studies allow for the school to determine its weaknesses and work to solve them. According to Wilson, "LHS is one of the best high schools in the United States, but it doesn't mean we're perfect. There's always room for improvement."

The results of the student survey will be published in an upcoming PTSA newsletter, and the NEASC recommendations will become public record.

Results of 1997-1998 Elections

by Ami Karkar

On May 15, elections for the 1997-1998 school year were held. Results are as follows.

Senators for the Class of **1998** are Tim Attanucci, Andrew Bechtel, Caroline Kim, David Lee, Alice Lin, and Zeke Yusah. President, VP, Treasurer, and Secretary are Rasheed Townes, Leslie King, Andrea Pawliczek, and Sarah Raeburn, respectively. Class Council members are Tim Attanucci, Andrew Bechtel, Brooke Coffman, Sarah Dailey, Tovah Day, Ethan Fried, Alice Lin, Kaitlin McDevitt, Matti Meharry, Dan Myung, Emily Razzano, Katherine Rose, Maria Stavropoulos, Erik Wang, Caitlin Wolf, and Zeke Yusah.

Senators for the Class of **1999** are Abbe Barg, Taylor Carroll, Stephany Collamore, Claire Cuno, Jason Hirschhorn, and Ami Karkar. The tie between Stephanie Coueignoux and Heidi Manschreck has been resolved with an election held on May 28. President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary are Jonathan Amar, Ami Karkar, Mike O'Connor, and Christie Ludwig, respectively. Class Council members are Maggie Allan, Kelly Archidiacono, Paul Bovet, Taylor Carroll, Stephany Collamore, Claire Cuno, John Erickson, Amy Gillis, Carolyn Grunst, Avital Levy, Chris Nasson, David Oberto, Larissa Rochford, Adriana Schick, Eric Tustison, and Ari Vigoda.

Senators for the Class of **2000** are Courtney Benson, Josh Champney, Karen Choi, Aaron Edelstein, David Mandle, Tanaz Sharifnia, and Kaytrue Ting. President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary are Alex Sherman, Jacqueline Fields, Kristen Lager, and Luther Faulk, respectively. The Class Council is Nicole Alessio, Marita Agnes, Tony Carlow, Stephanie Carter, Adam Coffin, Perry Dougherty, Shaw Flick, Jon Gilman, Rebecca Ginns, Nisha Hirani, Lida Kim, Suzi Rutti, Kate Shugert, Katie Smith, Jenny Sykes, and Anna Tyus.

Student representatives for the Board of Appeals are Ram Gowda for the Class of 1998, Lakshimi Gowda for the Class of 1999, and Sarah Crane for the Class of 2000. The School Committee representative is junior Ranjan Roy.

Freshman Karen Choi was voted a senator for the Class of 2000 in the recent elections.

-photo courtesy of LHS Yearbook

Program Provides Exposure to Careers

by Carolyn Shank

A newly established school to work program lets students to spend a day "shadowing" a member of a profession that interests them. This job-shadowing program allows students to visit the actual work site, take a tour of the facilities, meet real professionals, and see what "a day in the life of" their chosen profession is really like.

The main objective of this program, says guidance counselor Adrinell Washington, is "to give students career exposure early on." He feels that too many students go off to college with the intent to major in a specific field and then find out too late that they are not interested in that profession. This job shadowing allows students to experience what being a doctor, teacher, or architect truly entails.

Approximately 30 students are now involved in the program. They have signed up for shadowings in the field of radio/TV, social work, law enforcement, medical services, accounting, architecture, law, and politics. A typical shadowing involves going to the workplace, meeting with the people at the job site, and splitting into groups so that students can visit their individual areas of interest.

Recent shadowings have included a trip to the hospital, where students saw the emergency room and accompanied a doctor on his rounds; a visit to the MCET TV station, where students saw a live recording of "World of Water" and observed production; and a tour of the radio station JAM'N 94.5, where students observed deejays and production staff members.

Students have responded positively to the program, reports guidance counselor Suzanne Cervo. But she concedes that "the only real drawback to the program is that the community seems rather opposed to the idea at times, because it is not as academic as other activities offered by the school." Currently, the only shadowing site in Lexington is the Lexington Police Department.

Other planned shadowings include teacher administration at a middle school, social work at Mount Auburn Hospital, law enforcement with the Lexington Police Department, and visiting an architecture firm. Washington and Cervo are also attempting to set up a shadowing with Representative Jay Kaufman at the State House.

Concord-Carlisle High School has a school to work program in place, involving over 200 students. The guidance department hopes that the program at LHS will reach similar proportions.

UNDERCLASSMEN: we know you already feel the tremendous impact of the absence of the seniors. Where can you find them next year? See pages 6 and 7 for a list of "Names and Places."

Junior Alex "Fu Man" Chu performs the delicate measurements for yet another chemistry lab--actually, he's making root-beer..

-caption by Carl and Dave

Sounds of Spring Pops Concert Are Resounding, Sellout Success

by Jason LeeKeenan

On Thursday, May 22, and Friday, May 23, Lexington High School held its thirty-first annual Spring Pops Concert, featuring the LHS symphony orchestra, mixed chorus, concert band, wind ensemble, jazz ensemble, and madrigal singers. The Pops concert was a resounding success, selling out for both Thursday and Friday night performances.

The Thursday program began with the symphony orchestra's performance of "Fiddle Faddle," a light-hearted country tune by pop orchestra composer Leroy Anderson. The concert band began its portion with Timothy Mahr's "The View from the Mountaintop." Conductor Jeffrey Leonard led a venerable and convincing performance, as the band adeptly imitated the sounds of an eerie mountain scene. The percussion section intoned the ghostly whispers of turbulent winds, while the upper winds mimicked the unearthly echoes on the mountain.

The mixed chorus first sang a medley of folk songs, including "My Lord, What a Mornin' " and "Amazing Grace." Commented senior Skip Wilson, "The chorus' stunning rendition of the tune from Schindler's List was especially impressive." Part way through the program, the Marx Brothers interrupted the chorus, leading the crowd in a snappy performance of "Hooray for Captain Spaulding" from Animal Crackers, this year's successful musical.

Under Leonard's direction, the wind ensemble played with practically professional quality, giving undoubtedly the most impressive performances of the night. The wind ensemble's performance of both "Amazing Grace" and Percy Grainger's "Country Gardens" exhibited adept technical and musical proficiency.

"Excuse me while I do the boogaloo."

-Senior Steve Hart

The Madrigal singers, led by student leaders Andrew Garland and Liesje Spaepen, performed two works by impressionist composer Claude Debussy and one by Italian composer Jacob Arcadelt. Both the Madrigals and the Mixed Chorus are led by LHS choral director Brian O'Connell.

Separating the first and second halves of the concert was Jazz Ensemble I, providing an enjoyable, relaxing, and festive interlude to the Pops program as both performers and audience members got up and danced. Duke Ellington's "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing) was especially arousing, with senior Kate Gang as the vocal soloist. When asked to comment on the Jazz Ensemble's performance, senior Steve Hart eloquently said, "Excuse me while I do the boogaloo."

The second half of the Pops program included some more popular works, with the orchestra's performance of "Star Trek Through the Years" and Brian O'Connell's arrangement of a Beatles medley for the chorus. Both medleys allowed the audience to enjoy tunes familiar to them from television or radio.

The concert band concluded the concert with Jerry Bilik's "American Civil War Fantasy" and the traditional "Stars and Stripes Forever."

Friday night's Pops concert replaced "Fiddle Faddle" with the third movement from Kabalevsky's Violin Concerto, Op. 48, starring senior Yea-Tyng Tang, a winner of the LHS 1996-1997 concerto competition. "Yea-Tyng's violin solo was absolutely stunning," stated senior Rochelle Mackey. "It was really nice to see and hear someone that I had never heard play before perform so beautifully."

News Briefs

JUNIOR BOOK AWARDS ANNOUNCED
Junior Book Award winners were honored at the LHS Scholarships and Awards Ceremony on May 27. The winners were selected according to characteristics determined by the colleges. Congratulations to Matthew Saradjian (Brown University), Michael Harrington (Cornell University), Matti Meharry (Dartmouth University), Sheaumei Tsai (Emmanuel College), Andrea Pawliczek (Harvard University), Rasheed Townes (Holy Cross College), Erik Wang (University of Michigan), Caitlin Rollins (Mount Holyoke College), John Damore (University of Pennsylvania), Tim Attanucci (Princeton University), Tovah Day (Smith College), Jennie Choi (Wellesley College), and Jason LeeKeenan (Williams College).

YEARBOOKS FINISHED
The 1997-1998 Lexington High School Yearbooks are available for the pleasure-seeking public. Editors-In-Chief Carl Tortola and Dan Myung have removed all personal belongings, including suitcases, lawn chairs, and hammocks from the Yearbook Room. Al break-dance music has been donated to the Musket. Both Dan and Carl have vowed to rule with an "iron fist" over next year's production of the book, which means getting McDonald's over Bertucci's.

LHS A CAPELLA CD ON SALE!
The 1997 LHS a capella groups, Euphoria, Sixth Edition, Madrigals, Pitchpipes, Guacamole and Mixed Nuts will have their second CD on sale at the Spring Jamboree, which will be held on Friday, June 6, at 7:30 in the auditorium. Professional a capella group Five O'Clock Shadow will also be performing.

ROTARY CLUB AWARDS GIVEN
On June 3 at the annual Rotary Club banquet for varsity athletes, LHS athletic director Brian McNally gave out the Rotary Club Award to a senior in each varsity sport. The best female athlete of the year was three-sport athlete Lindsay Bonner, while the best female athlete of the year was wrestler and soccer player Ronnie D'Abbraccio.

Trombonist Eric Rosenbaum asks Greg Ingolia about the whereabouts of his spit-valve.

-caption by Carl

Gripes, etc.

It's been done. The senior class has finally made it out of LHS. For four years, this year's graduating class has wandered the halls of LHS, noticing the little things. The little annoying things. Things like:

Water fountains that never work, or deliver tepid and foul water when they do. (Plus there's the aesthetic joy of seeing a gaping hole covered in Hefty garbage bags where a water fountain should be.)

Doors by the Main Office that baffle. Push? Pull? How many students have flattened themselves or dislocated their arms on these wonderful designs?

Clocks that never tell the right time, and threats to pull down the clocks that do.

Windows that either never latch shut in the winter or never open during the summer.

Librarians and teachers who still talk louder than the students do in the Library Media Center.

Juice machines that are never restocked, and are always out of lemonade.

A student parking lot that is covered in broken glass and filled with potholes.

The noun "quad," which nobody can figure out if it is the raised area with the flagpole, or the grassy area by G, H, and J.

The "snowplowing" job, especially after the April Fool's storm, which left Mount Everest-like snowbanks for those who parked on Worthen, even after an additional day off for plowing was given.

Squeaky doors everywhere. Like the Tin Woodsman, LHS needs some oil.

The door to the Library Media Center, which makes an odd ka-thunk every time it is opened.

Constant price hikes for school lunches, as the portions get smaller and the quality gets nonexistent. Fish anchors, anyone?

$1.00 Spunkmeyers.

The swamp that students on Worthen have to traipse through each morning and afternoon.

The sound dynamics of the Science Lecture Hall, which mean that when you are supposed to hear a speaker, all you can hear is a faint hum, and when you are supposed to take a test, all you can hear is every single noise in the room.

The Science Building staircase which is permanently shut off.

The other two Science Building staircases, which always smell of mildew, urine, fetal pig, or some stunning brew of all three.

The desks that fall apart when sat in.

The never-ending supply of cheap, yellowing typewriter paper which nobody can find a use for.

The "Keep Out" sign on the Library, informing you that it is full even when you can see several empty tables and gleefully laughing librarians.

A public address system which is unintelligible, especially since there are rooms with no speakers at all.

A school newspaper which delivers two-month-old news, bizarre features, editorials written the night before going to press, and far, far too many pictures of Phil Lanoue.

A yearbook that has blurry pictures, a cover with crooked lettering, and spring sports photos with last year's seniors.

Toilets that bear the sign, "Pull up to flush."

The spasmodic heating/cooling system which gives heating in the summer, air conditioning in the winter, and strange smells year 'round.

The electronic bulletin board, which can tell you the schedule but not what time it is.

Televisions which show the LHS News Exchange without sound.

The rarity of a librarian in the Professional Library.

Bathrooms which are forever dirty and hot, especially those at the corner of H and J houses.

Pay phones, which are now scattered throughout the school, rarely work, are freezing cold on winter days, and now cost 25 cents.

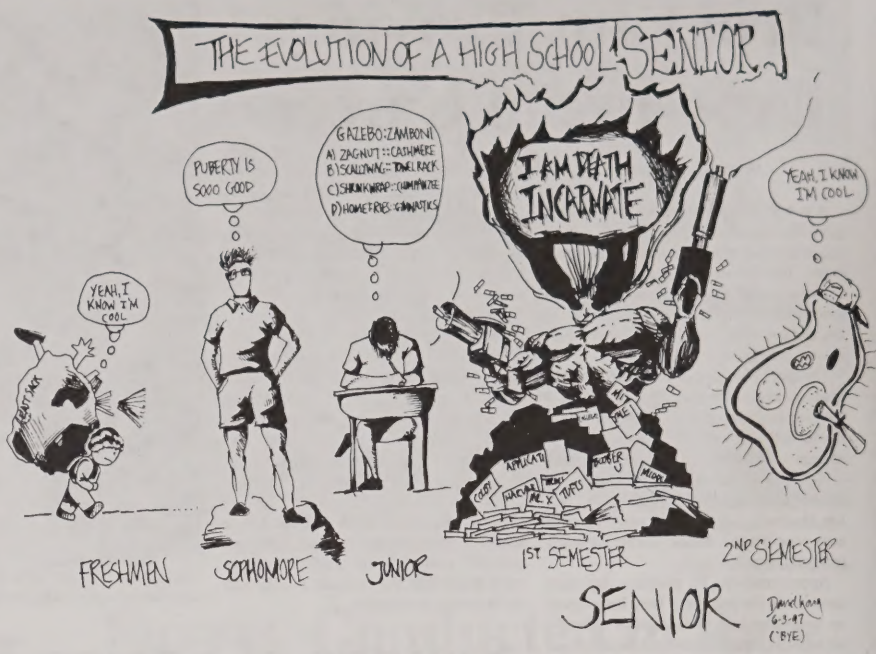
The LHS Sports Hall of Fame, which displaced the pay phones, but stood falling apart for nearly three months before someone re-taped the display together.

The purchasing order system, which guarantees that we get products that are already two years out-of-date, but we pay twice as much for them as when they were new.

Frightening old murals, such as the one of the jester in the G/H stairwell, that appear to have been there since time began and display all of the artistic talent of gravel.

. . . and, of course, having to spend four years surrounded by all this.

-Andrew Rabkin



A Four Year Retrospective

The start of sophomore year has already begun to become a distant memory, but, like all memories, there are a few bits that stay in your mind very clearly. I remember how I didn't get a class with the teacher I had requested. In my mind, this was about the worst fate that could possibly befall me, so I went to my counselor and tried to change my schedule. 'Not possible,' I was told. The problem was not that the class was too full, or that my schedule could not possibly be rearranged. I was not allowed to switch because if I had switched my Latin class to a different section, attendance would have dropped to below fifteen. There were two sections of Latin One that year: one with fifteen people, my block, and one with twenty-five or so students. In order to make my schedule fit, I would have had to switch from the smaller to the larger class. No problem, except for the policy that classes or sections with less than fifteen people are canceled the following year. I talked to my guidance counselor about a change. I talked to my Latin teacher. I had my parents speak with administrators in an effort to change my class. Invariably, I was denied the right to change blocks.

So I didn't get the teacher I wanted, and I stayed in Latin with fifteen people, which wouldn't have been so bad, except that within a month, three people had dropped the class. The following year, Latin One had two sections despite the below fifteen attendance. A fine example of the delightfully rampant, and, in this case, harmless, bureaucratic snafu here at LHS.

But even though the anecdote wasn't really such a terrible thing to have happen, it is an example of the administration's view that we students are merely numbers to be manipulated. If our education suffers, so be it. The ideal Lexington student does well on standardized tests and doesn't complain about anything. The important thing, however, is to have a high GPA, so that it looks like we are all happy and industrious. This is, of course, not true, but the administration is always careful to present a good show for any outside observers.

My real problem is not that the administration doesn't care at all about the students. I am concerned by the extreme hypocrisy of the administration's actions. I invite you to read the Student/Parent handbook, a masterful work of fiction. My favorite part is the list of prohibited actions subject to discipline (section VI). Every one of them is regularly carried out, unhindered and unpunished, from harassment, to theft, to drug possession, to my personal favorite, "insubordination."

There is a marked difference between what the administration says it will do and what it actually does to counter problems such as these. I admire the ideals laid out in the Student/Parent Handbook, but they are not the reality they claim to be. The document is an example of the buffer which the administration has placed between the outsider's perception of LHS and the student's perception to insure that we are looked upon as hard-working, content students by parents and the town. The handbook is the administration's assurance to the outside world that there are no problems here at Lexington's finest institution of learning.

I'm asking that the administration stop indulging in their ignorant world of fantasy, and do something about the problems faced by actual students- I'm asking that the administration either do what claims it to do, or to alter its claims, as laid out in the Student/Parent Handbook, to match reality. These problems must be acknowledged openly and bureaucratic actions must move into line with policy. Hypocrisy of this nature should not be tolerated any longer. By refusing to openly acknowledge the extent of these problems and by setting up only cosmetic programs to counter them, the administration is harming the students.

I am writing this editorial because, irritating though it may be, it needs to be said. For four years I've watched people not get the classes or teachers they requested because of bureaucratic snafu, and I've watched people in much more extreme situations. I've seen the effects of theft, drug abuse, and hazing. And I've seen the administration consistently ignore these problems.

-David Schwartz

Musket

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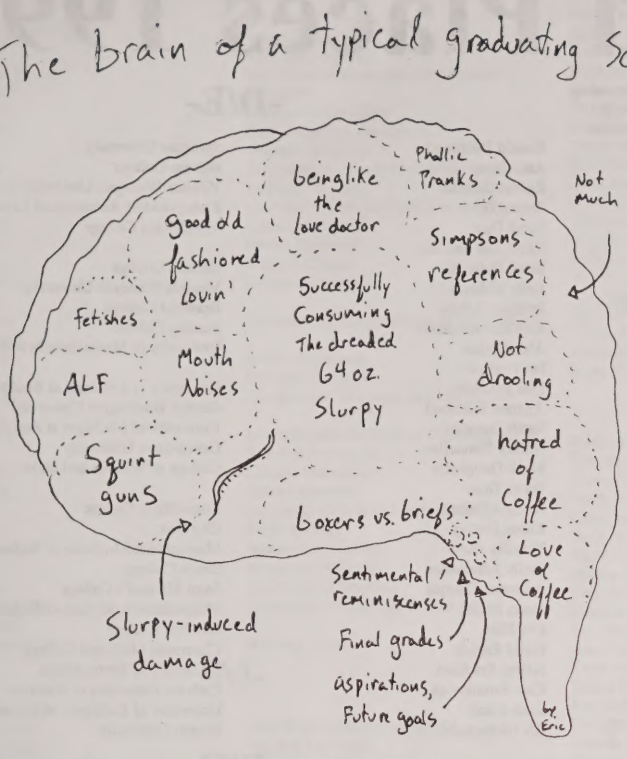


Reaction to Staged Car Crash Indicates Student Ignorance

Recently, upperclassmen at LHS witnessed the enactment of an event that everyone hopes will never happen, but unfortunately, is the leading preventable cause of death among people between the ages of 16 and 24: a drunk driving accident.

As students watched the Worthen Road drama, complete with ambulances, the jaws of life, bloodied bodies, and a hearse, one must stop and wonder: what is required to tell students that drinking and driving do not mix? Although missing two periods of class to watch an elaborate, intricate, and realistic car accident may have been interesting, it forces us to question why Officer Dana Ham and the student body of Lexington High School feel that the only way to effectively teach students the consequences of drunk driving is by using two old cars, five students, three police cars, two ambulances, a hearse, and a fire engine.

> Much to the amusement of his peers, one student chose to watch a particular car because "there would be more gore...it would be cool and stuff."

Haven't years of DARE presentations and Life Skills classes gotten the message across? It would seem obvious that the statistics could speak for themselves: driving under the influence killed over 30,000 people last year in the United States alone. Apparently, presentations done by survivors of drunk driving accidents, scores of pamphlets, and Life Skills lectures were not enough, in the eyes of the school administration, to teach students and make them aware of the risks involved in drinking and driving. It is discouraging that hours of video and numerous TV public messages have not adequately warned the students at Lexington High School about the risks of drunk driving.

And did the staged accident get the message across? Although there was the initial reaction of shock from the students as the tarp was pulled at the beginning of the event, revealing one smashed car and a corpse splayed across the hood of another, the excitement and immediate impact of the incident diminished steadily as the minutes passed. Two underclassmen passed the time by asking each other which object they would rather hit: a tree or another car. Much to the amusement of his peers, one student chose to watch a particular car because "there would be more gore...it would be cool and stuff." Towards the 40-minute mark of the drama, students sat on the curb gossiping, throwing a frisbee, laughing at the hearse that looked like a "limo with a different top," and discussing the realistic stage blood used on the "victims." Many wondered who the victims were, if they were fellow classmates.

As students walked away after the hearse had driven off, the obvious question presented itself: what was the point of the accident? Yes, it probably gave students a good view of what drunk driving does to an individual. It might have had a more powerful effect than any other drunk driving related event the health education department has ever scheduled. But, was it enough?

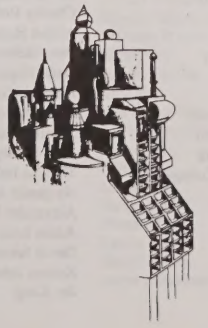
Will it take one of us dying in a drunk driving accident to make the message clear?

-Eun Young Choi

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

APPLY TO BE A WRITING WORKSHOP EDITOR!

Applications are available in the yearbook and the library. They are due on June 11.



Dave and Dave

A Look Back at Four Years

Freshman year. . . ahhh. I remember those days. But, before we get into that, we'll take a moment to gloat, via a clever anecdote, about the fact that, as seniors, we are now done with high school forever:

So the other day this freshman came up to us and he said, "hey Dave, how many days do you have left of school?" So I said, "two," and then, just trying to make conversation, I asked, "How many YEARS do you have left? Ha ha ha hahahha ha ha haha. Haha hahahahahahahah. Ha hahaha (wheeh) hahahahaha!!! Hahahaha hahahahahahahaha. Ha! Ha! Hah! Hah! Hahahahaha. Ha ha ha! Hah! Hahahahahahaha hahah! Ahh. . . (snort) hahahah!"

Well, freshman year wasn't all that bad. In fact, some of the best times of our lives were had freshman year. Many come to mind, like how C-caf used to have those great grease-covered french fries, or how F-Caf used to have donuts. Yeah, those were the good old days, before D-Caf turned into "the Grand Marketplace" and male pattern baldness was just a myth.

Sophomore year. Hmmm. . . Can't say as I recall so much of sophomore year. I know I was in school. I know I was taking classes, but just what those classes were has vanished into the purple opium haze of the past. Wait, now I remember the fetal pigs . . . ah, that smell of preservative brings the nausea all back again. Seeing Mrs. Schwartz dig into a pig skull to pull out bits of brain wasn't so easy on the stomach either, for that matter. Actually, the great highlight of sophomore year was leaving campus during lunch. This was a feat of great daring, for as sophomores, we had no open campus. I had this strange sort of suspicion that sometime a cop would pull over next to me and force me back onto campus:

The Fuzz: So, you're a high school student, eh? One of them junior or senior UPPERclassmen, eh?
Dave: Um . . . yeah.
The Fuzz: Y'know what we do to underclassmen who masquerade as upperclassmen, huh? Do you know what we do? We sharpen pencils, and shove 'em in their eyes!
Dave: Noooo!!! [Dave sprints for his life]

But, of course that never happened [note to selves: there is something to be said for repressed memories], so sophomore year was when we learned that (sigh) no one cares if you break the rules. And then came the freedom of junior year, like the heady bliss of a killing spree.

Yes, junior year. We were nice and free, enjoying our open campus all the way until october when our teachers decided that we should "learn." How we survived, I don't know, all I can say is that I will never look on smoked salmon the same way again.

The questions you get asked changes with each year of High School. As seniors, we get all these people asking us, "hey Dave, where are you going to college?" And when we were juniors, we got the commonly asked, "if midgets are color-blind, then would you call them blidgets or mlinds?" Still, the best questions came sophomore year when everyone asked us, "

Still, some of the best parts of seniorhood come with driving. Remember the days when your mom had to drop you off at the movies? Or when you couldn't play basketball because your car was parked in the driveway? Or when bass-fishing was "only a game"? It used to be about the halibut, dammit! Now, it's just about the money and the women. With age comes the weighty obligations of responsibility, and the time for bass fishing has blown away like so much pesticide in a dusty field.

So, as graduation arrives, Dave and I can't help but get a small case of the sniffles, but then we realize that not only are we never going to have to take a class here again, but that we can finally break the library's "ten decibel rule" without guilt. We will miss the little things, though, like advice from our good friend the Love Doctor, who has one final request for the class of 1997: "pull my finger."

-Dave and Dave

Names and Places 1997

The Musket *staff made several attempts to contact all members of the Class of 1997 regarding their plans for next year. The following is a complete list of all graduates, including the future plans of those who responded to our inquiries. We regret any errors or omissions.*

-A-

Christina Abajian-Demambro	
Karen Abbott	Vanderbilt University
Sonya Abrams	Wesleyan University
David Abrons	University of Texas at Austin
Bria Adamian	University of Hartford
Aaron Adler	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Nader Ali-Hassan	Boston University
Brook Alloway	City Year
Marvin Amato	Washington State University
Kirsta Anderson	New York University
Paul Andron	Purdue University
Michele Angelo	Seton Hall University
Amy Archidiacono	University of Vermont
Joshua Aronson	University of Arizona
John Aureli	Eastern College

-B-

Alexandra Bailly	Boston University
Jonathan Baker	Boston College
Taryn Balducci	University of Maine
Beata Balon	Wheaton College
Julie Barker	Westfield State
Adder Batista	
Daniel Bauer	Bowdoin College
Sarah Bayle	Smith College
Michelle Beauchamp	
Jonathan Behar	Bowdoin College
Roseanne Bellini	Indiana University
Tieka Bennett	Clark Atlanta University
Jed Berger	George Washington University
Thomas Bibbo	University of South Carolina
Benjamin Bines	Bucknell University
Lyndsey Bisbee	
Stephanie Bitler	West Virginia State
Eli Blatt	George Washington University
Aleka Blount	working
Adriano Boccanelli	
Lindsay Bonner	Rice University
Aaron Bonner-Jackson	Oberlin College
Sara Bosworth	University of Hartford
Heather Boucher	Middlesex Community College
John Boulos	Boston University
Benjamin Brearley	University of Hartford
John-Paul Briggs	Syracuse University
Kristin Brown	Bay State College
Christine Burbidge	Saint Lawrence University
Jennifer Butts	undecided

-C-

Olivia Cabrera	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Sabrina Cabrero	Tisch School of Arts, New York University
James Callahan	playing hockey
Timothy Calvin	Case Western Reserve University
David Campbell	
Stacy Caouette	Merrimack College
Joshua Caras	Babson College
Jessica Carlisle	Cooper Union
Craig Carlson	Salem State
Carissa Carter	Williams College
Benjamin Cary	Pratt Institute of Art
Kristy Casella	
David Cavaretta	Cornell University
Robert Cecchini	
Catherine Chan	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Sarah Chandler	Brandeis University
Cristina Chapman	Pace University
Michael Chen	Tufts University
Wei-Liang Cheng	
Dow Ben Chi	Babson College
Christine Chiou	Harvard University
Carrie Clapp	Middlesex Community College
Kevin Clauson	
Anthony Claybourne	Johnson and Wales University
Trevor Clement	American University
Joshua Coffin	Trinity College
Thomas Colatosti	College of William and Mary
Daniel Collins	College of the Holy Cross
Jeffrey Conboy	University of Maryland
Jamie Cook	Bowling Green State University
Jesse Cooper	University of Western Ontario
Randi Cooper	University of New Hampshire
Elizabeth Coppi	Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Crystal Cordell	Boston College
Gregory Costello	Assumption College
Matthias Crevieaux	New York University
Tasha Crichlow	Florida A&M University
Sven Cuccinello	working
Christina DaPrato	Providence College
Ronald Dabbraccio	Syracuse University
Amit Dang	Babson College
Rachel Dattilio	Virginia Wesleyan University
Steven Davis	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Sarah Day	Middlebury College
Kevin DeFrancesco	
Brian Delaney	Nichols College
Kelly Delaney	Virginia Wesleyan University
Jennifer Dennis	Bradford College
Kirk Der Avedisian	Bentley College
Alec Derian	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Ian Desilva	
Lisa DiFidele	University of Colorado at Boulder
Andrew Diamond	George Washington University
Sarah Domnitz	University of Michigan at Ann Arbor
Hillary Donnellan	Georgetown University
Sarah Dougherty	College of William and Mary
David Dron	
Andrew Dubeau	Connecticut College
Karen Dudley	City Year
Timothy Dunn	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Emily Edmonston	Smith College
Adrienne Elacqua	Saint Michael's College
Jonah Elgart	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Eve Ellis	Goucher College
David Enrich	Claremont McKenna College
Jeffrey Erickson	University of Pennsylvania
Kate Ermolovich	Catholic University of America
Enna Eskin	University of California at Berkeley
Ali Fakharzadeh	Boston University

-D/E-

-F/G-

Cheryl Filosi	Framingham State College
Elizabeth Fine	Skidmore College
Robert Fleiss	Colby College
Heather Flett	University of Pennsylvania
Kieron Flint	Villanova University
Erik Foley	traveling
John Fortin	University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth
Jared Fotis	Boston College
Andrew Franks	Savannah School of Art and Design
Anthony Fruciano	Bridgton Academy in Maine
Melissa Gallinelli	Bentley College
Catherine Gang	Tisch School for the Arts, New York University
Andrew Garland	Princeton University
Janine Geller	Skidmore College
Peter Gelling	Indiana University
Erika Gentile	
Rebecca Gero	Bryant College
Kiana Gibson	Wheelock College
Carly Gillis	West Virginia University
James Gilman	University of Colorado at Boulder
Geddes Golay	Dartmouth University
Robin Goldberg	Clemson University
Sarah Goldfine	University of Colorado at Boulder
Brianne Grace	Nazareth College
Bradlee Grant	University of Colorado at Boulder
Caitlin Grant	University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth
Zorica Grceva	
George Grey III	taking year off
Peter Groblewski	Bates College
Jack Hamilton	New York University

-H/I/J-

Stephen Hart	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Sarah Hartman	Connecticut College
Christopher Haugen	University of Denver
Karina Hausafus	Emory University
Yi He	University of Notre Dame
David Head	Babson College
Courtney Heney	taking year off
Jesse Herman	Georgetown University
Margeaux Herman	Wesleyan University
Ravi Hertzig	George Washington University
Shawn Higgins	Marine Corps
Charity Hobbs	Spelman College
Alison Holmes	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Peter Holmes	Gordon College
Dana Hopps	playing hockey
Hanwei Hsieh	Colgate University
Ellen Humphrey	Bates University
Jennifer Hurley	Clemson University
Judy Hwang	State University of New York at Buffalo
Therese Imhof	Boston University
Nathaniel Jaffee	Occidental College
Alexander Jaked	University of New Hampshire
Adam Jette	Emerson College
David Johansen	Middlesex Community College
Kristen Johansson	Saint Anselm College
Jay Kang	Syracuse University

-K/L-

Atul Karna	Clarkson University
Nathan Kaufman	Boston University
Mary Keane	Holy Cross College
Lindsey Kell-Fowler	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Krisztina Kircsi	undecided
Jakob Kissel	Dartmouth University
James Knight	Saint Joseph's University
Tammy Ko	Queens University
David Kong	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Alison Kraley	Wellesley College
Sue Kuba	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Angela Kung	Boston University
Felicia Kuo	Brown University
Katie Kurtz	Antioch College
Kathryn Lail	Simmons College
Kevin Lally	
John Langone	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Shannon Leary	
Caroline Lee	Boston University
Igor Levit	Brandeis University
Lawrence Liff	University of Maryland at College Park
David Lisle	
Peter Litwack	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
David Liu	Brandeis University
Krista Longo	Cornell University
Vicki Losick	Bates University
Kim Lu	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Julie Lum	Smith College
Gregory Luongo	Assumption College
David Ly	Wesleyan University
Vannarin Ly	University of Vermont
Christopher Lyddy	University of Michigan at Ann Arbor
Cheryl Lynch	
Caitrin MacDonald	studying abroad

-M-

Colin MacKenzie	
Robert MacLean	West Point Military Academy
Rochelle Mackey	Harvard University
Jamillah Malone	Johnson and Wales University
Matthew Malone	University of Massachusetts at Lowell
Jonathan Mandle	Boston College
Kathryn Manz	Haverford College
Michael Martin	Ohio State University
Ruth Mason	University of Vermont
Talia Massimilla	Merrimack College
Stephen McCabe	undecided
James McCloskey	Trinity College
Gavin McDonough	Endicott College
Morgan McDuffee	Ohio Wesleyan University
Daniel McFadden	Cornell University
Jeffrey McGaughran	
Blaine McGivern	University of New Hampshire
Summer McKean	New York University
Robin McManus	Skidmore College
Amy Meek	University of Miami
Elan Mehler	New York University
Matthew Mendola	Pomona College
Derek Mills	Middlesex Community College
Varant Minassian	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Peter Mirabella	
Adam Mitropoulos	
Andreea Mocanu	Brandeis University
John Moniz	
Phillip Murphy	Ohio Wesleyan University
Anagha Nadkarni	McGill University

-N/O/P/Q-

Heather Napolitano	Bucknell University
Robert Nasson	Wesleyan University
Julia Negele	Oberlin College
Jeffrey Nelson	
Michele Nemser	Tufts University
Elizabeth Nichols	Amherst College
Christopher Nowselski	Wheaton College
Christopher Nuss	Case Western Reserve University
Christal O'Neill	
Elizabeth O'Neill	Mary Washington University
Linda Oh	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Ashley Osgerby	George Washington University
JoAnne Ovadia	Clark University
Eleni Panagiotou	Regis College
Ami Parekh	Williams College
Marla Parker	Mount Ida College
Allison Paroskie	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Jason Pasquale	
Thomas Passarini	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Owen Patrick	Colby College
Janet Pau	
Daniel Paulsen	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Becky Pawlak	Tufts University
Samantha Pearlman	Wheaton College
Alison Peters	Green Mountain State College
Timothy Peters	playing hockey
Marc-Aurel Petifort	
Phoeun Phoung	
Matthew Plasse	Wake Forest University
Jennifer Poage	Drew University
Ivan Poon	Syracuse University
Marianna Popiel	Saint Lawrence College
Jay Premack	
Siobhan Quinlan	Harvard University
Fabien Rabanal	Providence College
Andrew Rabkin	Cornell University
Julie Radz	University of Rochester
Tessa Randall	Emory University
Lawrence Randolph	Morehouse College
Christopher Reynolds	Boston College
David Reynolds	Northeastern University
Trevor Roberts	
Seth Robertson	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Israel Rodriguez	Naval Academy at Annapolis
Windia Rodriguez	Police Academy
Alissa Roeder	Trinity College
Pamela Roffi	Trinity College
Melinda Romero	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
William Ronco	Williams College
Eric Rosenbaum	Harvard University
Todd Rosenfield	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Joshua Rosenthal	Johns Hopkins University
Abraham Rothbaum	taking year off
Brian Rutti	Denison University

-R-

-S-

Michael Sackton	Brandeis University
Timothy Sackton	Brown University
James Schauffele	Naval Academy
Sarah Schlein	Vassar College
Carey Schwaber	Harvard University
David Schwartz	Tufts University
Shawn Sealy	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Ebonee Seams	Mount Ida College
Amy Seaquist	Florida State University
Eduardo Sevillano	University of Colorado at Boulder
Tali Shakartzi	
Boris Shakhnovich	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Katie Shea	University of Washington
Daniel Shiau	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Joseph Short	Middlesex College
Danielle Simmons	
Claudia Slavic	Assumption College
Rebecca Smerling	Brandeis University
Matthew Smith	Connecticut College
Aldo Sonin	Manhattan School of Music
Liesje Spaepen	Harvard University
Amy Spector	Lesley College
Michael Sperandio	University of Texas at Austin
Gabriel Stenger	University of Southern California
Emily Sterzin	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Lauren Stevens	University of Southern California
Geneve Stewart	McGill University
Michael Sukeforth	University of Arizona
Evan Sutton	taking year off to work
Christopher Swartzbaugh	University of Vermont
David Sweet	Castleton College

-T/U/V-

Laleh Talakoub	McGill University
Yea-Tyng Tang	McGill University
Daniel Teamer	
Aisha Thomas	Lasell College
Virginia Thomas	
Paul Thordarson	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Nancy Trivers	Simmons College
Filadelfo Trombetta	Georgetown University
Rebecca Tsai	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Annie Tsang	Bowdoin College
M. Keegan Uhl	Middlebury College
Kate Umans	Connecticut College
Jana Unkel	Wesleyan University
Kenneth Uzogara	West Point Military Academy
Emily Vacanti	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Paul Venuti	Boston College
Joshua Vogel	Middlesex Community College

-W/Y/Z-

Chi-An Wang	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Reid Warner	Loomis Chaffee Preparatory School
Jennifer Wasilko	Mount Holyoke College
Nicholas Weinstock	Colby Sawyer College
Eve Weinzapfel	Sarah Lawrence College
Jessie Weisstein	Sarah Lawrence College
Michael Welch	University of California at Berkeley
Chih-Chia Wen	Carnegie Mellon University
Carolyn Wengler	Endicott College
David Werlin	University of Vermont
Glen Whitehouse	
Melissa Willett	Arizona State University
Shawn Williams	
Warren Wilson III	Bates College
William Wright IV	University of Colorado at Boulder
Kenny Wu	University of Connecticut
Szu-Hsien Wu	Purdue University
Tina Wu	University of California at Los Angeles
Yen Ching Wu	Bowdoin College
Kyoko Yamamoto	Bryn Mawr College
Grace Yang	University of Pennsylvania
Amy Yen	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Linda Yeo	Wheaton College Conservatory of Music
Jaclyn Yerardi	University of New Hampshire
Hester Young	Tufts University
Lorisa Zatz	
David Zielke	George Washington University
Arina Zohrabian	McGill University

The Secrets of LHS: Part II

Dave Lee is miffed by the secrets of LHS
-photo courtesy of LHS Yearbook

by Carey Schwaber

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Tradition is just mimicry. The *Musket* aims to please…its editors. Here we go with the secrets of life at LHS.

Bagel runs invariably liven up a double-block science class. Writing Workshop is the best place to throw a mid-day party. When librarians put up signs claiming that library is full, it only means that they're all about to have a collective nervous breakdown. Librarians only yell at students who look easily intimidated. Fear Esteemed Library Scientist Saradjian.

Colleges cannot tell the difference between Honors Physics and Honors Analytical Physics. The latter, aptly named Anal P, is a breeze once you've photocopied the entire solution book. Even Aaron Adler did it. Speaking of photocopies, the machine in the student library charges a dime for one, two, or three copies. The machines in the professional library and the debate room are divine gifts. The professional library photocopier is not, however, guarded by a horde of mean ogres. Debate 1ACs make good term papers.

The student parking lot is empty until 7:40 AM. School officials can't nab you for parking violations if they don't know who you are, so don't put a parking permit sticker on your car. If the Sacktons' car is found illegally parked, Mike Sackton will be penalized while Tim Sackton gets off scot-free. Parking permits and bumper stickers can be peeled off and transferred from one vehicle to another. Brake before speed bumps, but not as you go over them.

Senior Slump spares no one, not even Dan Shiau (a.k.a. Moral Center of LHS). Don't mess with Eun Young Choi, Hester Young, Geddes Golay, Ms. Massalem, or Mr. Capezza. Allen Riddell is just begging to be messed with.

> The machines in the professional library and the debate room are divine gifts...senior slump spares no one, not even Dan Shiau...neither Dave nor Dave is actually named Dave...

As Mr. Theroux will attest, nothing excites teachers more than sexual innuendo. The Myung Dynasty doesn't compare to the Amar Dynasty. Parallel structure is key. Some of us still worship Minardi and Krich. Andrew Rabkin can open doors by himself, thank you very much. Nothing beats walking into chem wearing doggy ears.

No one questions passes from Martha Queenin or Phillip Z. Lanoo. Don't let a teacher collect "anonymous" course evaluations in a special order. Rumor has it that certain guidance counselors are without a clue when it comes to the college admissions process. This won't stop them from advising you on it, though! Yale and Princeton have turned anti-LHS. How much puck could a hockey player hock if a hockey player could hock puck?

An anonymous student has compiled a list of criteria one must meet to earn an A+ in Dr. Shohet's class: 1. Write in pencil; 2. Single space; 3. Never number pages; 4. Use 10 point Times New Roman font; 5. Passive voice should be written, spoken, and thought by you; 6. Cross out errors with multiple sets of squiggly lines; 7. Always ask him what the date is; 7. Argue that indirect objects are well and alive in the fourth dimension; 8. Insist that works of art in general, and Dickinson poems in particular, are cynical; 11. Go cow tipping.

Appearances really aren't so deceiving as one might think: most *Musket* articles really are written the night before the deadline. Neither Dave nor Dave is actually named Dave. Taking advice on love from Dave and Dave is not a good idea. Christine Chiou's sole ambition in life is to see that she is referred to at least five times in each issue of the *Musket*. If you want some loving, find a closet, or else the *Musket* will print quasi-dirty pictures starring you and the object of your affections. These pictures will be strategically located next to innuendo-ridden headlines.

Only Mrs. Sanderson will shoot a sleeping student. Dr. Shohet will just hold the student hostage after class for a ten-minute lecture. Don't space out in Mrs. Maier's class; she'll pin you to the wall with a strategically vague question. No one can hear the last line of any poem Mr. Murray reads; it's no use straining your ears trying. Mr. Rahman is the man. To go from G caf to H caf without going outside, you must harness the power of the fourth dimension. Or learn to fly.

Use chopsticks for eating and chairs for sitting; don't even think about employing either as an instrument of torture. Working the *Star Wars* trilogy into a paper doesn't guarantee you anything other than a C for Creativity. The senior theme song, not so conversely, is and will always be: "C is for cookie! It's good enough for me!" In the words of many flight attendants: "Buh bye! Bye now! Buh bye!"

Light at End of Tunnel Not Necessarily College

by Caroline Loomis

College. College. College. For most students at LHS, especially the juniors and the seniors, it feels as though college talk will never cease. Our work becomes a frantic attempt to propel ourselves into college as quickly as possible. How often do we stop to ask ourselves who we really are and what we really want from our education? For some students, the best way to answer these questions is to escape the frenzied highway of Educational Institutions and explore Life's back roads for awhile.

What exactly is "time off"? Does taking a year off mean taking a year-long summer vacation? What do kids do when they graduate early?

Early graduation leaves students with a year, or more often a semester, to peruse whatever they want. Seniors have the freedom to pursue their interests in greater depth than possible when enrolled in classes, or they may simply to spend their second semester exploring the world. Soon returning from a semester-long tour of Europe to promote his CD is "Monster" Mike Welch.

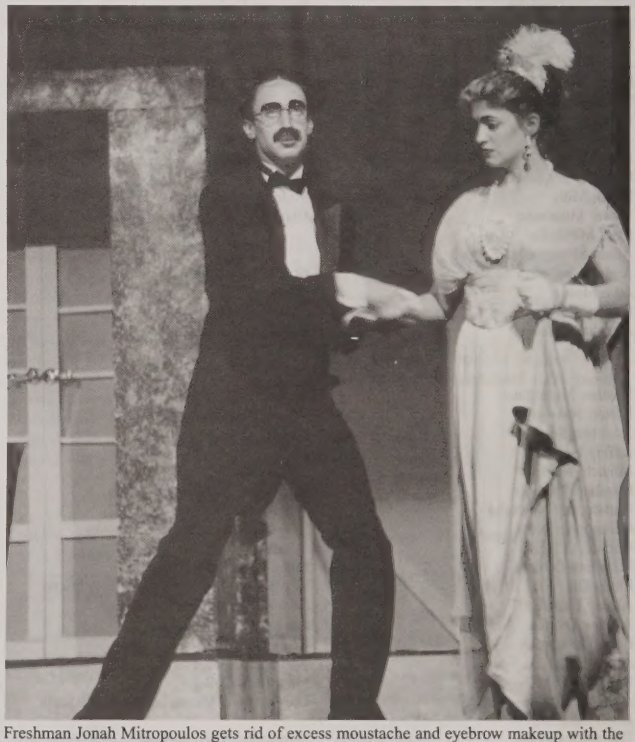
Some students take a year off. Students who plan on going to college right after the year off apply to college in one of two ways. Often, students apply to college during their senior year of high school and then defer their acceptance for a year. Some students put the application process on hold for a year.

When faced with a full 365 days of freedom, what does one do? To start with, there are extensive programs available that cover everything from travel to community service to post-graduate education. One of the more well-known service activities is City Year, an organization that allows young people to spend a year immersed in community service. Students in the program participate in activities such as tutoring younger students. Senior Brook Alloway commented, "It is a very educational experience. My sister did it, and I am looking forward to next year."

Travel is an ever-popular option. Some students choose to take part in exchange programs in foreign countries. Others opt for religious exploration and may join one of the many programs that visit Israel, such as Nativ or Young Judea.

Other students choose to work for the year, either for the experience or to save money for college. If more preparation for college seems necessary, post-graduate programs are offered at many private prep schools or independently.

Whatever they do, students who take a year off most often love the choice they made. As a guidance counselor Gale Nill said, "All of the students I've had who have taken a year off, for whatever reasons, have only praised the experience and have grown incredibly."



Freshman Jonah Mitropoulos gets rid of excess moustache and eyebrow makeup with the help of senior Kate Gang's glove, all seen in vivid detail in "Animal Crackers."
-photo courtesy of Mrs. Gang

Anatomy of a Senior Prank

A darkness flows over the school. The only light is from the almost full moon floating high in the sky. I lie silently as a cop rolls by, checking the woods where I hide. Soon he leaves and the only sound is that of the flag rippling and tapping the flag pole. I turn on my radio and softly say, "All clear."

I hear a soft rumble as the rest of the team carries a ladder toward the school. In and out in less than 15 minutes. No cops, no problems. Home we go to celebrate.

Up with the crack of dawn, I arrive at school earlier than usual. The sight makes passerbys smile, laugh, and point. Pictures are taken from the side and front.

Teachers, students, and secretaries alike come out from their jobs and classes to point and enjoy. Assistant Principals and Principal Philip Lanoue come quickly to gawk before telling the janitors to remove it.

The problems of creating the perfect senior prank have always been the same: how to make people remember it, how to get away without getting caught, and how to brainstorm an idea that is new, original, and non-destructive.

The key to a good senior prank is to plan well, to keep it a secret, and to stay simple and non-destructive.

The first senior prank of this year failed in many respects. By the time people arrived at school in the morning, it had already been cleaned up. The janitors had spent the night cleaning; fire trucks had arrived early. Perhaps this prank incurred a too-large clean-up expense. Still, the legend of the prank lives on. It has been said that the wall in front of the main building was eight feet tall and required 25 people and 1 ton of cement.

Only a few saw the Minuteman in his full glory. The gold-colored, slightly flexible, detachable piece of anatomy was removed before the first bell rung. But it remained a source of inspiration to the underclassmen who caught a glimpse.

Perhaps this past senior prank will be topped. But if nobody receives divine inspiration, there will always be a next year.

The *Musket* exists this year with the help of over 50 people. We would especially like to thank Dan Myung and Carl Tortola, editors-in-chief of the LHS Yearbook, for giving us free run of their photo files... and approximately half of all pictures printed in the *Musket*.

Members of the Black Student Union, which held a dinner on May 30, pose for a picture in the senior quad.

-photo courtesy of Burlington Studios

LHS Takes 2nd Trip to Nat'l Sci. Olymp.

by David Schwartz

After crushing their enemies at the Massachusetts State Science Olympiad, the LHS science team did a little victory boogie before gearing up for the National Science Olympiad at North Carolina State University. The team placed tenth overall.

This year's team members were Aaron Adler, Rafael Bras, Christine Chiou, Steve Davis, Tim Dunn, Rudy Faust, Russell Ganzi, Saro Getzoyan, Brian Hemond, David Kong, Abigail Krich, Jason LeeKeenan, Peter Litwack, Yuen-Jong Liu, Angela Lo, Mandar Muzumdar, Sarah Park, Zara Rix, David Schwartz, Dan Shiau, Sheaumei Tsai, Kai-Jae Wang, and Ken Weinstein. Coaches were Scott Carpenter and Mark Waldeck.

Preparation involved long hours in Coach Scott Carpenter's room, listening to Blues Travellers songs over and over again. Highlights of the engineering event gadgets included the mighty bottle rocket, brainchild of juniors Jason "the man" LeeKeenan and Saro "Hot Glue Gun" Getzoyan; Mission (Im)Possible, in which a judge's untimely drop of a marble caused the contraption to spontaneously react; and a bag of flour.

On May 15, with only brief stops for lunch and dinner, team members traveled for 16 1/2 hours on a bus. They were well entertained, however, with movies such as "Total Recall," "The Long Kiss Goodnight," and a "Wallace and Grommit" fest. After approximately four hours of sleep, they staggered onto the NCSU campus on Friday morning to spend the day basking in the sun, honing their Ultimate Frisbee skills, discovering the joys of water guns, and occasionally opening a book. Junior Sheaumei Tsai showed some latent talent for being a secret agent.

Opening ceremonies followed a rather greasy barbecue. Over 100 teams from across the nation were treated to an inspirational speech, in which they were told that they were "specialer." Next was the parade of states, in which co-captains Kong and Schwartz painted their faces and made fools of themselves. The team then swapped for prized objects such as plastic lobsters, inflatable alligators, and stuffed slugs.

A scant five hours of sleep, due to a "slight mishap," preceded Saturday's competition. The LHS science enthusiasts competed in events such as Treemendous, Designer Genes, and Biology Lab. Although the Lexington team barely made a ripple at the awards ceremonies last year, this year's team made a splash. Seniors Tim Dunn and Peter Litwack won first place in Chemistry Clue; seniors Aaron Adler and Litwack won third place in Physics Lab. Also placing third were junior Rafael Bras and sophomore Mandar Muzumdar. Senior Dan Shiau and junior LeeKeenan won fifth place in What Are You Trying to Tell Me?

This year's team also dressed up for the awards: Bras sported a new 'do, Chiou wore a "very shiny" skirt, and Shiau looked "classy." Evidently, their fashion sensibilities foretold success, for in between the presentation of third and second places, the officials announced that there was a tie for tenth place. The new award winner was none other than Lexington High School.

The team returned to their overpriced hotel rooms drunk...with happiness. After a brief parking lot water fight, the students retreated into their rooms for a little late night President, a card game. Litwack displayed his proficiency in this activity.

The LHS Science Olympiad team arrived in Lexington late Sunday night, satisfied with their ten-place leap from last year's standings. The only negative results, however, were due to the fact that the team had subsisted on fast food and McDonald's sugar packets for the duration of the trip.

No Squaring the Circle Here: LHS Mathletes End Successful Season

by Yuen-Jong Liu and Ken Weinstein

The few. The proud. The mathletes.

Hours of pencil-twirling toil over masochistically difficult mathematics. The satisfaction of finally solving a problem after beating one's head against a desk until two plus two begins to equal nine. But then comes the glory. Victory, sweet victory. And the corresponding merchandise ain't shabby, either.

"Math team is the best source of hardware anyone will ever find in high school," explains veteran mathlete Jason LeeKeenan. That statement is certainly true considering this year's stunning victories in competitions as tough as the USAMO, in which mathletes sit on hard chairs for six hours straight, spending an hour each on six mind-boggling proofs.

It was in the spirit of all these victories that math team coach Saleh Rahman held his annual Math Awards Night on May 29. At the night, he handed out hundreds of plaques and framed certificates, embellished with his one-of-a-kind calligraphy. In addition to all these honors, Rahman also distributed cash prizes, making Math Team among the more lucrative academic activities at the high school.

The following is a choice selection of a few of the 1996-1997 math team competitions. Those who cannot pronounce the myriad of acronyms are referred to the "Official Math Team Glossary: the Rahman-Authorized Guide to Mathspeak" from the 1996 Graduation Issue of the *Musket*.

MML--Massachusetts Mathematics League. This year's league runners-up were junior Jason LeeKeenan and freshman Yuen-Jong Liu, hereafter referred to as "Jong" to avoid confusing senior David Liu with "Jong." The LHS team finished second behind Canton High School.

GBML--Greater Boston Mathematics League. This year's high scorers included LeeKeenan, Litwack, Liu, Jong, and Weinstein. Again, LHS finished second.

WPI--Worcester Polytechnic Institute Mathematics Competition. LHS was once again the champion for the fifth time in a row, thanks to team members Adler, Dunn, Litwack, and Jong.

UMass-Lowell Math Challenge--The Lexington math team continued its winning streak of four years. The team members were LeeKeenan, Litwack, Jong, and Weinstein.

All interested students were invited to try their minds at some advanced math in a few monthly competitions. Members of the BC Calculus class were a prominent group among participants.

Continental Calculus Math League Competition (no nifty abbreviation)--LHS finished first place in the region and fourth place in the nation.

NEML--New England Math League Competition. LHS finished first out of 186 schools.

Atlantic-Pacific Math Competition--LHS finished a nail-biting first place, narrowly beating second place finisher Stuyvesant High School, New York, NY, by one point.

MAML--Massachusetts Association of Math Leagues. There are two levels to this examination. Of those who took the first level, more than two-fifths made it to the second level. Jong, LeeKeenan, Dunn, and Weinstein ranked in the top 25 in Massachusetts. They receive cash prizes.

AHSME--American High School Math Exam. Thanks to the quality of LHS' mathematicians, LHS placed first in the northeastern US as well as first among public schools in the nation. AHSME's honor roll winners include LeeKeenan, Litwack, and Jong.

AIME--American Invitational Math Exam. Students scoring 100 or over out of 150 on the AHSME have the enviable privilege of taking yet another three-hour exam. Among those who felt that three hours of school was worth skipping, Litwack and Jong made it to the...

USAMO--USA Math Olympiad. The proctor locks the students in a room without nourishment for six hours while the two lucky mathletes perform lengthy proofs on why the circle cannot be squared and other classic conundrums.

Foreign Language Students No Strangers to Excellence

by Rochelle Mackey

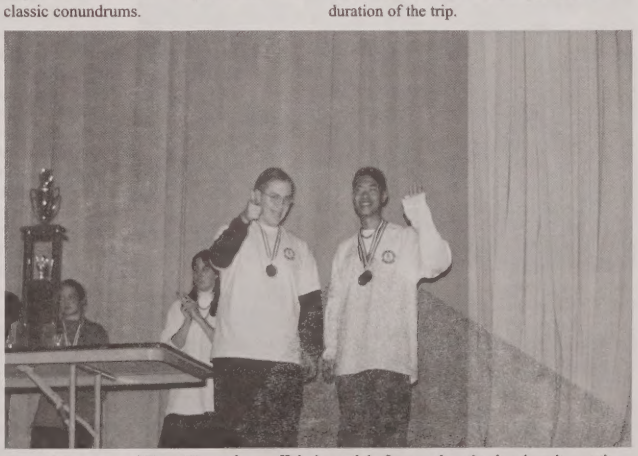
Lexington High School honored students in two Awards Nights this past May: the Foreign Language Department Awards Ceremony on May 15, and the Lexington High School Scholarships and Awards Ceremony, on May 27.

The Foreign Language Awards Night began with opening remarks by Foreign Language Coordinator Mary Alice Samii, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Diane Tabor, Director of Personnel and Administration David Wilson, and Principal Philip Lanoue. They praised the LHS Foreign Language Department as well as the students, whose hard work and enthusiasm earned them the awards.

The program moved swiftly to the presentations of "Class Awards," awards given to one distinguished student from each foreign language class. Chosen by their teachers, recipients of class awards received certificates for achievement in various areas of foreign language, including French, German, Latin, Spanish, English as a Second Language, Teaching English as a Second Language, Bilingual Chinese Program, and American Sign Language.

After presenting Class Awards, the organizes gave out "Examination Awards," given for outstanding performance on national language examinations such as the AATF, the AATG, the AATSP, the ACL, and the AATS. Students who received two or three Class or Examination Awards during the course of the evening included Tim Attanucci, Eun Young Choi, Ayehlet Cooper, Anuradha Gokhale, Benjamin Golder-Novick, Dina Guth, Liora Halperin, Andrew Lin, Yuen-Jong Liu, Amelia Massucco, Ashwini Nadkarni, Siobhan Quinlan, Brendan Reddy, Matthew Saradjian, Liesje Spaepen, Claudia Stumpf, and Leah Theriault. Lien DeBrouckere received an amazing four Class and Examination Awards.

Between these presentations, the LHS Madrigal Choir provided vocal entertainment. Among the selections were "Bonzorno, Madonna," "Yver vous n'estes qu'un villain," "Il bianco e dolce cigno," and "Tanzen und Springen." The evening concluded with the presentation of the departmental awards. For excellence in the study of foreign languages, senior Siobhan Quinlan received an honorary monetary award. Michael Laguerre was honored for service to the foreign language department.



Dave Schwartz and Dave Kong show off their medals for synchronized swimming at the National Science Olympiad, held in North Carolina.

-photo by a random passerby

Senior Carolyn Wengler smacks another hit for Lexington.
-photo courtesy of LHS Yearbook

Lexington Boys' Track Team Finishes Up a Down Season

by Aaron Adler

The boys' outdoor track season ended for most of the team last Saturday at the Class A meet at Boston College High School, where many qualified for the event. However, the only person who managed to qualify for the all-state meet next Saturday was Kenny Uzogara, who placed second in the 200 meter dash with an impressive time of 22.3 seconds.

Josh Muller was determined to give some competition to the three other superstars in the stacked 800 meter field. Despite an early and impressive lead over his opponents, Muller could not hold the lead against the finishing speed of the others.

Also competing in the meet were injured senior tri-captain Tim Calvin in the triple jump, David Kaminski in the pole vault, senior tri-captain Todd Rosenfield in the 300 meter hurdles, and Bob MacLean in the 100 meter dash. Will Ronco finished the mile in sixth place with a time of 4:41.1, while senior tri-captain Aaron Adler recorded a 4:46.9. The 4x800 team (freshman Ian "Gates" Joseph, Ronco, Kerr, Roetter did well, but not as well as they had at the league meet in Salem.

"Towards the end of the season, we got our act together as a team and started performing as we are capable of performing."

-Senior tri-captain Aaron Adler

The team fared well at the league meet, with Rosenfield winning the 300 hurdles and Green finishing fourth in the 110 hurdles. Muller took the 800 meter (1:59.1) by an impressive margin, while Roetter placed fifth. Uzogara finished first in the 200 and third in the high jump (5'10"). Joseph finished third in the mile with a time of 4:40.4. Calvin did not compete due to his injured heel.

During the dual meet season, the team finished at 5-4, recording some excellent individual performances. The team beat Belmont, Burlington, Melrose, Watertown, and Winchester soundly, but the Minutemen were unable to amass enough points to top Wakefield, Woburn, Stoneham, and undefeated league champion Reading.

The team had hoped to challenge Reading, but the many injuries early in the season prevented this. However, the team improved throughout the year.

"Towards the end of the season we got our act together as a team and started performing as we are capable of performing," said Calvin.

Many new talents were discovered this season. Roetter proved that he can compete with the best in the 800, while Joseph ran an impressive mile at the league meet.

"The team should do better next year as any of the younger runners mature," said the ever optimistic Rosenfield.

Softball Prepares for Playoffs

by Alex Sherman

Posting an impressive 6-1 record in the second half of the season, the Lexington varsity softball team is gearing up for the playoffs.

Lexington is now 12-4 on the year, and although two big regular season games have not yet been played, the Minutemaids have already assured themselves a playoff bid.

"If we play out of our minds, we can come home 2-0," said coach Karen Boudreau. "But just playing Burlington and Woburn is good preparation for the tournament. They're two good, strong teams."

In what is most likely their most impressive victory of the year, Lexington obliterated the Red Devils 20-2 in a game called early due to the slaughter rule. Lindsay Bonner pitched impressively while nearly all of the Lexington bats caught on fire.

The Minutemaids have been led all year by the pitching duo of Bonner and Kara McManus, who were named recently to the league all-star team.

Offensively, Andrea Pawliczek and Sarah Dailey were named to the first team, while Carolyn Wengler and Brooke Coffman earned themselves honorable mentions. The six league all-stars were the most Lexington has had in several years.

Lexington received their most uplifting win of the year on Wednesday, May 14, when the Minutemaids were finally able to defeat Reading. For the first time in five years, Lexington came out on top of the Rockets, winning 5-3 after breaking a 3-3 tie in the bottom of the sixth.

"We want a home game for the tournament, and hopefully, we'll get a good seed."

-Coach Karen Boudreau

Amy Seaquist led off the inning with a big double, and she was promptly driven home on Coffman's RBI single. Starting pitcher Lindsay Bonner then knocked in Coffman, who had moved along to second on a grounder, to give Lexington a 5-3 lead. Bonner closed out the game with two strikeouts to put the nail in the coffin. She ended the game with five strikeouts and a complete game win.

"The kids wanted this one bad," Boudreau said after the game. "They think positive and encourage each other and it pays off."

If Lexington comes into the game with that disposition, they could be primed to upset the Tanners. Even if they do defeat Woburn, Lexington cannot win the Middlesex League. However, a second place finish in the league combined with a high tournament seed will suit Coach Boudreau just fine.

"No one's going to knock off Woburn, but if we're second by ourselves, that'll help...We want a home game for the tournament, and hopefully, we'll get a good seed."

The boys' lacrosse team gets ready for a game.
-file photo

Senior Tim Calvin "flops," which, in the high jump, is perfect form.
-photo courtesy of Burlington Studios

Boys' Lax Team Looks to Continue Winnings Ways in State Tournament

by Jason Hirschhorn

With a 1-3 record, the Lexington boys' lacrosse team didn't start off the season as well as it hoped. However, it pulled together and went 8-4 the rest of the way.

Peaking at exactly the right time, Lexington looks ready for the state tournament. This improvement was displayed in the team's first postseason game against Masconomet, as Lexington manhandled the #20 seed, 13-3. The Minutemen, seeded thirteenth, look to continue their success against Concord.

"We have 22 committed athletes who really want the same thing every time out and play so hard," Coach Dave Lautman cited as the reason for the team's overall success. "We're a close bunch of guys and I think that especially shows in our defense, because you have to trust your teammates in order to play good team defense.

He continues, "Defensively, this is one of the better teams I've had in a while. Offensively, we score when we need to. We've beat teams with six goals, holding them to four."

Junior all-league attackman Nick Campisi led the team in goals and assists with 34 and 18, respectively. Senior attackman Jeff Erickson also tallied 34 goals and 14 assists on the year. Third in scoring was Andrew Dubeau with 23 goals and 4 assists.

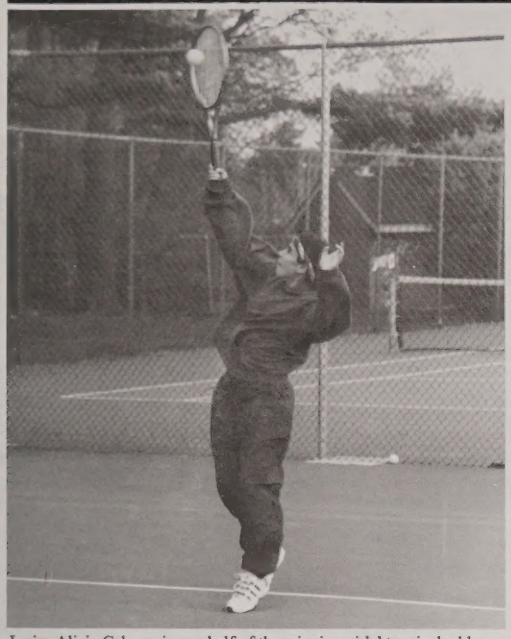
In addition to Campisi, junior goalie Chris Beltz was a league all-star. Lautman credits Beltz as being the player most vital in close games. "If Chris Beltz didn't play as well as he did, we would have lost three more games and not been in the tournament. If he didn't play with the poise that he did against Peabody, Billerica and Waltham, we wouldn't be in the position we now are. The few times he's been shaky the defense has protected him."

That defense is led by second team all-scholastic, senior Morgan McDuffee. Being named second team all-scholastic essentially gives McDuffee the honor of being one the top six defensive players in eastern Massachusetts. Tri-captain Jeff McGaughran was one of the defensive stars and it earned him an honorable mention all-league position.

The defense was rounded out with Dave Cavaretta, Matt Turcotte and Steve Nawoichik. Dave Sweet was a long stick midfielder and was a first team all-league player. Junior midfielder Jeff Lopresti earned an all-star position on the second team. Another midi, Peter Groblewski was an honorable mention all-league player. Ben Brearley played strong at the midfield position all year and was vital in some of Lexington's wins.

The general consensus was that the team's defense would take them places in the playoffs. Said Campisi, "Our defense has won us big games, and if we continue to play good team defense and control the ball, we can beat Concord. If our midi's perform like they have and our attack has a good game we can go far."

An Ace for Girls' Tennis



Junior Alicia Cabrera is one half of the winning girls' tennis doubles team that knocked off #3 Concord-Carlisle.

by Tessa Randall and David Ly

Who says that boys have all the fun? The girls' tennis team may not have a gaudy 17-1 record, but they have only three losses—two of which were at the hands of state champion Winchester. Now, as the second season rolls around, the Minutemaids have a chance to emerge from their counterparts' shadows.

The sixth seeded Minutemaids began their quest for glory with a 5-0 romp over eleventh seeded Arlington in the state tournament. It would not be so easy in the quarterfinals, as Lexington had to face a former state champion in Concord-Carlisle.

The match began with two set victories by senior Arina Zohrabian at first singles and freshman phenom Dina Guth at second singles. Concord-Carlisle answered by capturing third singles and first doubles. Tied at 2-2, the second doubles team of senior Alissa Roeder and junior Alicia Cabrera determined the fate of the Minutemaids.

With the rest of their teammates watching, Roeder and Cabrera pulled off a dramatic three set victory (6-3 in the third).

The momentum began with the last match of the season against Burlington, which proved to be Lexington's biggest challenge. Burlington had already beaten the Minutemaids earlier in the season, 3-2, and the girls were determined to avenge their only loss to another team besides Winchester.

"The seniors...have been leading the way. When they want to work, everyone else does...They know it's their last chance, and they're giving it all they have."

-Coach Buzz Gillis

Led by Zohrabian at first singles, Ramnath at third singles, and the second doubles pair of senior Alissa Roeder and junior Alicia Cabrera, the 'Maids hung on for a 3-2 decision, this time in their favor.

The win at Burlington in the final match assured the 'Maids of a tie for second place behind Winchester. One of coach Buzz Gillis' goals was to move up in the standings from fourth place, and he accomplished that this year. One cause has been the commitment of the seniors.

"The seniors—Arina, Tessa, and Alissa—have wanted to do well and have been leading the way," said Gillis. "When they want to work, everyone else does. It makes my job very easy. They know it's their last chance, and they're giving it all they have."

The accolades have already arrived for some of the players, as Zohrabian and the first doubles team of Randall and Jasmeen Spidle were named Middlesex League all-stars. The hunt for the real prize, the state championship still remains.

Lexington faces second seeded Newton South, with the winner advancing to the Division 1 North finals.

Girls' Lax Surprises

by David Ly

Is Lexington suddenly turning into the high school version of Princeton, the perennial college lacrosse power? You would think so after both the boys' and girls' teams knocked off their respective league powers. Unfortunately, they might need to actually knock off Princeton in order to get the respect they deserve.

Lexington began the season eager to defend their league title. Although they had no returning starters, the Minutemaids didn't miss a beat, finishing as co-division champs of the Metro North League. The Blue and Gold have played solidly throughout the year, and after compiling a 13-4 season, they expected to be rewarded with a high seed and a home game to open the tournament. However, seedings are determined by winning percentage, and Lexington was knocked back to the number nine seed, sending them to Wellesley for a first round game. Lexington beat Wellesley earlier in the year.

"We would have liked to have had a home game, but we're not putting a focus on it now," said senior Pam Roffi. "It could work out better for us."

The low seeding will suit the Minutemaids just fine, as they have proved they can beat the best. Led by all-stars seniors Emily Edmonston, Sarah Goldfine, and Carly Gillis, Lexington has continued with strong play throughout the season. Lexington recorded wins over previously undefeated Needham (the number four seed) and Lincoln-Sudbury (the number three seed), and Winchester (the number six seed). The Minutemaids dealt Needham one of only two losses, while the victory over Lincoln-Sudbury was the only blemish on their record.

"We're outraged [at the low seeding]," said senior co-captain Margeaux Herman. "We definitely deserve a home game, but no matter where we're placed, we're going to play well."

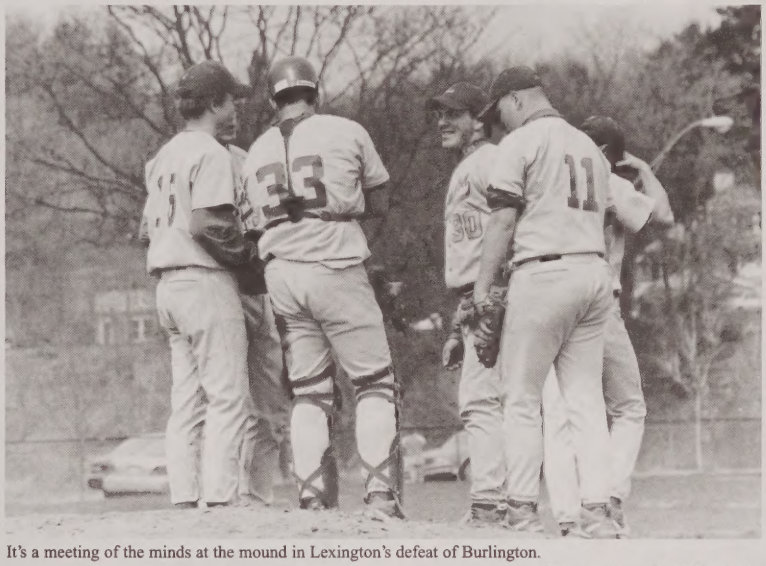
It appears the Minutemaids are peaking at the right time. They wrapped up the regular season with some victories, burying Walpole, Framingham and Norwood.

If the Minutemaids get past Wellesley, a date with number one seed and undefeated Longmeadow awaits. Can Lexington slay yet another dragon?

"We don't want to jinx ourselves," smiled Roffi.

Senior league all-star Sarah Goldfine skillfully cradles the ball.

-file photo



It's a meeting of the minds at the mound in Lexington's defeat of Burlington.

-photo courtesy of LHS Yearbook

Baseball Tosses Towards Playoffs

by Alex Sherman

With a 13-7 regular season record, the Lexington varsity baseball team can now focus all of their attention on the playoffs.

Although at print time, the Minutemen did not know who they faced in the first round, Lexington hoped for a home playoff game.

"We're right on the bubble as far as a home game goes," said Coach Tom O'Grady. " I think our record is good enough to avoid a preliminary game, giving us a bye into the first round, but I'm not sure. It's really too close to call."

Lexington enjoyed a successful second half of the season, 6-3 overall, securing themselves a tournament bid early in the schedule.

To earn that berth, Lexington knocked off Stoneham 7-0 in an impressive victory. The Spartans had defeated Lexington in Game 1 earlier in the season, but Lexington was determined to get its revenge. Led by Ben Bines and Reid Warner, who both went 3-4, and a complete game six hitter by Bobby Nasson, Lexington shut out Stoneham.

Lexington may have received the confidence to beat Stoneham in the outing before the Spartan game. Although the end result was a loss, Lexington came very close to giving Reading what would have been their first loss of the year. The game was a nail-biter to the end.

However, opponents should know that Lexington can never be counted out. Down 5-1, Mike McGirr led off the inning with a single. One batter later, Tom Bellini drove in McGirr with a bomb to deep center, resulting in a double. Reid Warner walked, putting men on first and second with one out. Gavin McDonough then reached on a two-base error which scored McGirr and sent Warner to third. However, Lexington could not bring the tying run in from second to tie the game.

"[Woburn] was a good win for us. It was a nice way to end off the [regular] season."

-Coach Tom O'Grady

After defeating Melrose and Belmont after the Stoneham victory, Lexington had their winning streak halted by Burlington. The Red Devils made up a 5-0 deficit to edge out a 7-6 victory.

Lexington was able to end the regular season on a winning note, defeating Woburn 3-2 in the season finally.

"This was a good win for us. It was a nice way to end off the [regular] season," commented O'Grady.

Bobby Nasson went the distance in the Woburn contest, striking out six and giving up only six hits and no earned runs.

Although the logistics for the postseason have not yet been announced, Lexington does know one thing for sure—six of the nine Minutemen starters will be participating in the Middlesex League all-star game. Gavin McDonough and Tom Bellini were named to the all-league team, and seniors Mike Sperandio, Bobby Nasson, Ben Bines and sophomore Mike McGirr were voted as all-stars by the Middlesex League coaching staff.

Boys' Tennis Crowned League Champions

by David Kong

After losing three senior league all-stars to graduation, not much more than a rebuilding year was expected of the 1997 Gold Team. However, following a two-day war at Reading's hostile home turf, the team emerged with an epic victory won, and an undisputed Middlesex League Championship in hand.

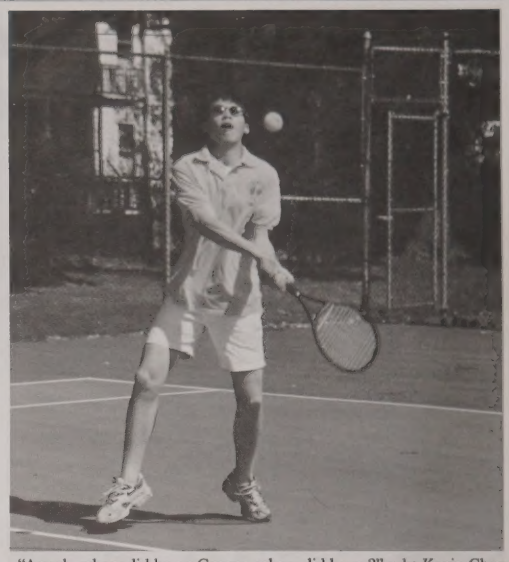
After clinching at least a share of the title with a 5-0 win over Burlington, the Gold Team faced Reading, a team with perhaps the best singles player in the state and tremendous confidenceafter upsetting first place Winchester. A torrid rain storm halted play midway, forcing the team to finish the match later, which it did in fine fashion.

Third singles player Nick Nagao and first doubles "Sloop" Jon Behar and Dave Kong won quickly, 7-5, 6-3, and 6-4, 6-3, while co-captain Fabien Rabanal lost to phenom Jaime Cerretani, 2-6, 2-6.

After a highly contested loss at second doubles, the entire match and the dreams of a title rested on the shoulders of second singles player Owen Patrick. Patrick, who faced Reading's George McCormack, was well aware of the stakes, as a loss would place the team in a three-way tie for first, while a win would earn an undisputed league title. So, after dropping the first set 3-6, Patrick stormed back, winning with a 6-3 second set and a dramatic 7-5 third.

The team finished the year 17-1, with a remarkable 16-game winning streak. Over the past three years the team has compiled an incredible 55-4 record in league play, along with two undisputed league titles. Their dominance in Middlesex earned them a third seed in the state tournament, where after defeating a tough Beverly team 4 - 1, the Gold Team lost to sixth-seeded St. John's Prep., a team who has won three state titles in five years. The second doubles team of Josh Leopold and Kevin Chen lost quickly at 1-6, 1-6, while Nick Nagao and the doubles team of Kong and Behar went down after 4-6, 2-6 matches. Senior co-captains Patrick and Rabanal took care of business, with Rabanal defeating Bryan Wexler 6-3, 6-0, and Patrick defeating Jason Bidwell 5-7, 7-6, and a third set default.

This year's team sported four senior league all-stars: Globe all-scholastic Fabien Rabanal, three year all-star Owen Patrick, who went undefeated at second singles, and the unanimous number one doubles team of the league, "Sloop" Jon Behar and Dave Kong. Though the seniors will be tough to replace, the Gold Team has experienced varsity players in Nagao, Chen, Sciaretta, and Leopold, who will all be back next year to defend the honor of the Gold.



"Auugh, where did he go George, where did he go?" asks Kevin Chen
-photo by Linda Behar

Junior track star Grace Licorish jumps for yet another victory in Lexington's strong year.
-photo courtesy of Burlington Studios

Girls' Track Ends With 8-2 Record

by Kathryn Manz

Still exuberant from their exciting first ever win over Newton North and every other team at the State Coaches' Relays, the girls' outdoor track team powered into their next challenge: the Salem, New Hampshire meet.

Even after the excruciatingly long bus ride, the Minutemaids managed to embarrass and dominate the rest of the field, with every girl placing in her event.

Grace Licorish continued her success from the Relays, capturing first in both the 200 meter and the long jump. Licorish recorded a personal best in the 200 and set a meet record in the long jump. Impressed by her feats, the judges named her the MVP of the meet.

In the 100 hurdles, Carolyn Shank blew past the competition and recorded yet another meet record. It would also turn out to be a very enjoyable day for the Minutemaids' relays teams, as the 4x800 team of Chi-An Wang, Leslie King, Sarah Day, and Ellen Humphrey also set a meet record. The 4x400 relay team recorded an impressive second place. In the field events, Hillary Donnellan, returning after a disheartening injury, placed first in the triple jump.

"It was a great meet," quad-captain Betsy O'Neill said about the terrific finish. O'Neill herself accomplished a personal record, finishing the 300 meter hurdles in 48.6 seconds, good for third. "We always win because no good teams ever go to it."

The League meet, which was postponed for a week, was the next challenge for the Minutemaids. A predicament had already occurred for Lexington, as Amie Shei, who was seeded fourth, was accidentally switched to a slower heat. However, the Minutemaids persevered and set many records, including Licorish's first place finish in the 100 meter dash and the long jump, leaving her undefeated all season and fueling the rage of her already obsessive fans. However, this was not enough to impress the coaches, as Licorish was not awarded the league MVP award.

"I can't believe they didn't give it to Grace," said a dejected coach Ken Totas. "I'm really mad."

The rest of the team also had a terrific day. First places finishes included the 4x100 team (Licorish, Ebony Jack, Adriana Schick, and Ali Peters), Donnellan in the triple jump, and Wolf in the 200. Shank placed second in the 100 hurdles and O'Neill and Finnegan placed fifth and sixth, respectively, in the 300 hurdles.

'97-'98 Varsity Scoreboard

Cross Country.....	Basketball.....	Baseball.....13-7
Boys'.....9-0	Boys'.....8-12	
Girls'.....8-1	Girls'.....8-11	Lacrosse.....
		Boys'.....9-7
Field Hockey.....12-3-3	Boys' Swimming.....6-0	Girls'.....13-4
Football.....4-6	Indoor Track.....	Softball.....12-4
	Boys'.....7-2	
Golf.....2-7	Girls'.....8-1	Tennis.....
		Boys'.....17-1
Soccer.....	Ice Hockey.....	Girls'.....15-3
Boys'.....3-8-7	Boys'.....8-9-3	
Girls'.....4-9-5	Girls'.....6-11-1	Track.....
		Boys'.....5-4
Girls' Swimming.....7-2	Wrestling.....16-7	Girls'.....8-2
Volleyball.....20-1		

Senior Adam Jette participated in the 10-hour dance marathon at the Junior prom; his only injury was a busted kneecap.